



THE CENTENNIAL.

Vol. I.

GEORGETOWN, COLO., JAN., 1876.

No. 1.

—THE—



PUBLISHED BY JESSE S. RANDALL,
PRINTERS' ALLEY, NEAR MINERS' ASSAY OFFICE.

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DIED.—In Georgetown, December 31st, "THE OLD YEAR"—1875. He departed this life in a green old age, full of days, crowned with honors, and had received his share of the joys, sorrows and labors of life, but now he sleeps the sleep of peace; there let him lie.

BORN.—In Georgetown, January 1st, 1876, a daughter to "The Old Year," christened at birth,

THE CENTENNIAL.

Conceived in the Old Year's dying agonies, E embraced at birth the year's wintry storms. N sailed onward through the snows and tempests of snow, T covering mountains, valleys, fields and valleys below; E, then from her birth, full grown to life she springs; N ew-born, yet full of life, she brings N ew joys from the grave of her departed sire. I n loudst chorus, every soul aspire. A nd raise a welcome to the new-born year. L ong looked for Year, CENTENNIAL YEAR.

THE KOHINOOR.

THE most celebrated Diamond of modern times is the Koh-i-noor, which became the property of the Queen of England on the annexation of the Punjab by the East India Company in 1850. In addition to its intrinsic value, this Diamond is highly interesting from its great antiquity and the historical associations connected with it. It is reputed to be 4,000 years old by Indian traditions; certainly 50 B. C. it is said to have belonged to the Rajah of Mysore, and to have remained in the possession of his successors until India was subdued by the Mohomedans.

It is mentioned by Tavernier in 1665, as the property of the Mogul Emperor. He says it weighed 279 carats, and was estimated to be worth \$2,500,000. The original weight is variously stated at 787 and 793 carats. It was called Koh-i-noor or "the hill of lustre," in allusion to Mount Sinai in

Arabia, where God appeared in Glory to man.

When taken to England it measured about 1½ inches in its greatest diameter, and above ½ of an inch in thickness, and weighed 186 carats. The beauty of the stone being greatly marred by its irregularity of form and the imperfect manner in which it had been cut (the principal face and one of the largest sides having been discovered to be merely cleavage-planes, one, to all appearance, not polished), it was determined to recut it. It was entrusted to Mr. Coster, of Amsterdam, and was skillfully and successfully accomplished in 38 days, each of 12 hours' uninterrupted labor. The stone, although of less weight than before, possesses nearly the same size, and, instead of being a lustreless mass, scarcely better than rock-crystal, it has become a brilliant, matchless for purity and fire.

From a careful examination of the stone before it was recut, Prof. Tennant arrived at the conclusion that it had originally formed a portion of a larger Diamond, the form of which was a rhombic dodecahedron. He also suggested that the great Russian Diamond, and another slab weighing 138 carats, had been taken from it. This division of the original dodecahedron into three, was most likely the result of accident, as a very slight blow inadvertently struck in the direction of the planes of cleavage, in setting the stone, or a fall, would have the effect of causing it to split in the manner pointed out. Possibly the slab alluded to above, may have formed the diamond, with a flat surface, nearly as valuable as the Koh-i-noor, which Forbes, in his Oriental Memoirs, describes as being with it in the royal treasury at Isphahan, and called the Doriahuor, "the ocean of lustre."

Both these jewels formed part of the plunder seized by Nadir Shah, at the taking of Delhi, in 1739, when the riches he carried off exceeded \$350,000,000 in value.

The Koh-i-noor was found in Golconda, India. Its present weight is 106 carats.

A model of this Diamond is now on exhibition at the Miners' Assay Office.

MARIETTA, the Plymouth Rock of Ohio, was named after Queen Antoinette, who gave to the town the bell which hangs in its court house. The first church was organized in 1776.

THE first book printed on this continent was in the city of Mexico. It was printed in the Spanish language, in the year 1554, and was entitled, "Doctrina Cristiana para los Indios."

THE first publications in English in America, were the "Freeman's Oath," and an Almanac for 1630,—nearly a hundred years after the work published in Mexico. In 1640 was published the first book, entitled "Bay Psalm Book."

THE first book printed in California after the Americans took possession, was entitled "California as it was, and as it is." Its author was Dr. Wierhickey. The first newspaper issued in California was in the year 1848.

THE first newspaper tolerated in Virginia was in 1780. The subscription price was fifty dollars per annum.

THE oldest existing newspaper in the United States, is the New Hampshire Gazette, established in 1757.

THE first newspaper established in North America, was the Boston News Letter, commenced April 24, 1704. It was a half sheet of paper, twelve inches by eight, two columns on a page. R. Green was the printer. It survived until 1776,—seventy-two years. It advocated the policy of the British Government at the commencement of the Revolution.

THE first Mormon press is now in the office of the Indianola (Iowa) Journal. It was pitched into the Mississippi River, at the time of the Nauvoo War, and afterward fished out.

SANTA FE, New Mexico is the oldest inhabited Spanish town on the continent. It was founded in 1581.

Pueblo de Taos is the most ancient town. It was old when Santa Fe was founded.



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SALUTATORY.

In making our humble bow to the public as Publisher of THE CENTENNIAL, we collect all our energies to carry a high head, a stiff upper lip, and as independent a carriage as is consistent with the dignity of our sheet.

The paper will be filled with reading matter from Alpha to Omega, consisting of original and selected matter, some mixed, and a few advertisements just to make it interesting; and if we occasionally put in something to make you "laugh and grow phat," we hope you will excuse us.

As it regards our course and principles in this publication, although we believe that every writer should be governed by fixed and immutable principles, (unless he sees fit to change them), and certain rules of action, we intend to write what we please, publish what we please, and when we please.

We have been asked whether we would support Prex Grant for a third Presidential term. We do not like this Yankee inquisitiveness, for it might interfere with our independence of action, but still, rather than leave our readers in doubt concerning our position, we answer: we are not to be bribed,—we do not think the man or party exists that could influence our action contrary to our conscientious convictions; still, should circumstances be so arranged that we should be offered a good fat office—one that there is money in,—we might,—etc., etc. We think this explanation of our position is sufficiently lucid for all to understand, but do not ask any more questions, for it would be inexpressibly painful for us to refuse an answer.

Our readers and patrons must not conclude, because we have called our sheet THE CENTENNIAL, that it is only to be published once every hundred years, for we assure them, before half that time expires, they may safely calculate on seeing No. 2 of this Vol.

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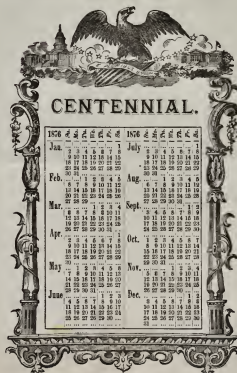
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Horrible Massacre!

330 LIVES LOST!

Middle Park the Scene of a
Ghastly Spectacle!

News has just been received from Middle Park, of the horrible massacre of a roving band under the leadership of Cervus Columbianus, in which nearly every member was killed. It appears they were ambuscaded in a canon, from which there was but one mode of escape. The defile was guarded by armed men, who shot them down as they attempted to pass. From accounts received, about three hundred and thirty lives were lost. Full particulars will probably be received within a few days.

The Cabinet of Minerals, Fossils and Archeological Specimens, on exhibition at the Miners' Assay Office, is one of the finest collections in the west; it contains a very large variety, embracing specimens from every quarter of the globe. Lovers of the curious should call and examine this collection.

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Hubnerite, a brownish-red mineral, composed of tungstic acid and protoxyd of manganese, has been found in San Luis Park.

Among the many curiosities to be seen at the Miners' Assay Office, are a quantity of petrified bitter hickory nuts, found near Florissant, Colo.

Programmes from the Miner Office announce the Misses Winn, in music and readings, at McClellan Hall, Saturday evening, January 8th.

Gentlemen, three paces to the rear! Ladies, to the front! The flying rumor of the day is, that there will be a Leap-Year Party at the Barton House, on Thursday evening, Jan. 13.

Police news is scarce—but little circulating, it being mostly concealed under the protecting wings of his Honor, Judge Deatur. But let evil doers beware, for before many days, his Honor will unfold his wings, and then you will be crying for these rocks and mountains to fall on you and hide your peccadilloes from the knowledge of your fellow men, but ye shall cry in vain.

The Dutchman's Experience.

WHEN we were traveling the Cross Creek Circuit, in 1815, in a region of country which was mostly settled by German Lutherans, and not much regard paid to the Sabbath, or any kind of religion, there lived a German by the name of Gost. He was one of the principal men of the neighborhood, and had great influence among his German friends. At one of our love-feasts we heard him relate his experience, and though it was in very broken English, yet it was told with an unction and a power which melted all hearts, and which thrilled and interested us so much that we have not forgotten it to this day.

Shortly after the speaking exercises commenced, he arose and said, "Mine dear brudders, ven I comes to dis blaice dare vas nobody here. Den after, mine freins dey comes too, and ve did comes along very good, as ve dot. Ve did drink viskey, and frolic, and dance, and ve all dot it vas very nice; but binebys der comes along into de neighborhood a Metodis breacher by de name of Jo. Shackelford, and he breaches and breaches, and brays and brays, as you never sees de like in all your lives. He says, 'You beeples all goes to hell unless you git converted, and be saved from your zins.' Now, vell den, de beeples begins to dink seriously on dis matter, and dey say ve must do better, or, sure enough, de devil vill git us shust as he says. Den dey gits Christen, and begins to bray; and dey valls down, and brays, and croans, and hollers, and I says to my beeples, dis is de

devil; and it goes on till it comes to my neighbor Honnes. Vall, I does not go, and my vife and gals does not go, because I said it vas de devil. Vell however, it gomes so near by mine house, I says I vill go and see vat is dis ting vat makes de beeples so crazy. So von night I goes to Honnes' to see de brayer meeting, and I sets down and sees de beeples come in, and dey all looks shust like dey used to do, and I dot it vas all vell; but dey soon begins to zing and bray, and I dot dis is all right. Den some begins to croan, and valls down; and I says, 'Dis is de devil, and I vill shust go home;' but ven I vent to rise up, I could not, vor I vas vast to de bench. Den I vas skeered, and I said, Dis is de devil sure enough.' I looked round, and I dot de door vas growed up, and I vas fast enough. Vell, vell, den I say, 'Mine Got, de devil vill git me now, by sure!' I looked more for de door, and bresently I sees him, and I makes von spring and out I goes headforemost. Den I gets up, and runs mit all my might till I comes to mine fence; and ven I goes to git over, I comes down smack upon my pack, and now I says 'De devil vill get me py sure!' I lays dare for some time; den I gets up, and climbs de fence, and goes to mine house, and dot I would shust go to bed mitout making any noise, but shust as I vas gittin in ped, smack down I comes on mine pack upon de floor; and Madalaua, mine vife, did shump out of de ped, and did schream; and Petts and Kate—dat ish my two gals—dey did shump up and schream and holler, and dare I lays, and I says, 'O, mine Got, tish ish te devil!' Madala-

na says, 'No matter for you; it shust serves you right; you would go, and now you prings de devil home mit you to your own house.' Petts and Kate dey both cries, and mine vife she scolds, and de devil he shakes me over de hells, and all my sins shust comes up to mine eyes, and I says, 'O, mine Got, save me!' After a vile I goes to ped, but I not sleeps. I says, 'O, mine Got, mine got, vat vill become of me!' Shust at daylight I gits up and goes down to my parn, and gits under de hoss-trough, and smack I comes out mine pack again. Den I cries mit all my might, 'O, mine Got, mine Got, have mercy upon me!' I dot I vas goin to de hells. Shust den something say to me, 'Di zins pe all forgiven.' Den something comes down all over me at my head, shust like honey, and I opens mine mout shust so vide ash I can; but it filled so full it run over, and den O, I vas so happy as never I vas before in all my life! I did shump like a deer, and I hollered, 'Glory, glory to mine Got!' mit all my might. Mine horses dey did veel round and shmorted, and I did veel round too, and hollered glory, and I did not know den, and dey did not know me. Presently I saw my gray hoss' Pob, and he did veel round, and I hollered, 'Glory, glory, and bless de Lort!' I love dish hoss unto dis day so petter than any.

FINLEY.

The Englishe Mercurie, now in MS. in the British Museum, has been proved to be a forgery. The oldest regular newspaper published in England, was established by Nathaniel Butter, in 1662.

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